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2344 Housekeepers' Chat

Monday, December 16, 1929

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Subject: "Christmas Trees and Christmas Greens." Information from Forest Service, U. S. D. A.

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"Aunt Sammy," said Billy, this morning, "You haven't been looking in my tool chest for anything, have you?"

I assured him I had not.

"Don't," said Billy. "That's where I hid your Christmas present. It wouldn't fit anywhere else, because it's long and narrow. Uncle Ebenezer helped me buy it. Think you could guess, Aunt Sammy?"

"Why, I don't know, Is it something to wear?"

"No, not ezackly. But it is something to carry. Not a handbag, though. The first letter is u, if you'd like to guess some more. Only please don't guess too close. What begins with a u?"

"Let me see. With a u -- it couldn't be a uniform--"

"I should say not!" laughed Billy.

"Nor underwear --"

"You're not even warm," said Billy. "But don't guess any more, because there aren't very many words that begin with u. Anyway it's made of blue silk, and it has a redbird on the handle."

"So it has a handle?"

"Oh, please don't guess any more!" said Billy. "I didn't mean to say that much. Let's change the subject. Are we going to have a Christmas tree?"

Of course we are going to have a Christmas tree. Billy knows that we always have a tree, and a Christmas as old-fashioned and jolly as any small boy could wish.

The other day I was talking with a member of the Forest Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He told me a lot of interesting things about Christmas trees. Do you know how many Christmas trees are marketed every year? From six to 10 million. Do you know where all these trees come from? New England and Canada provide trees for the big city markets of the East. Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota provide trees for the Lake cities.



Except for these two groups of large cities, which form the concentrated market, the Christmas tree industry is more or less local.

No doubt you have heard a lot lately about the destructive cutting of Christmas trees. According to the Forest Service, with the right kind of cutting, there will be enough trees to go around, now and in the future. But the wrong kind of cutting is harmful to the forest. The Forest Service strongly condemns the all-too-common practice of taking young trees and Christmas greens without permission, from someone's property; the cutting of trees from places where their removal mars the scenic beauty; and the destruction of a valuable young forest by cutting all the trees for quantity shipments.

When the thriftiest young trees are cut from the woods, cutting is wrongly done. Proper cutting, however, improves the forest stand, instead of harming it. Christmas tree cutting can be made a part of the operation of thinning. The trees to remove in a thinning operation are the crowded trees that are being shaded out, the crooked trees, and the stunted ones. What care we, if our Christmas tree is slightly flat on one side? It can be placed in a corner of the room, or against the wall, where it will be just as beautiful as a perfectly symmetrical tree, which is needed in the forest.

Have you heard about the Denver Christmas tree plan? The city of Denver has adopted a plan for doing away with the reckless and destructive cutting of Christmas trees. The Denver Chamber of Commerce, the U. S. Forest Service, and other organizations conducted a campaign to have all people who bought Christmas trees ask for certified trees. The trees are certified by the State Forester, who attaches a tag to the tree, certifying that it has been cut under methods which improve the forest. If the trees are cut on the National Forests, the Forest Service uses a tag which reads thus:

"This tree brings a Christmas message from the great outdoors. Its cutting was not destructive but gave needed room for neighboring trees to grow faster and better. It was cut under the supervision of the U. S. Forest Service from a crowded stand on the Pike National Forest."

Since larger and larger numbers of Denver people are buying only certified trees, the merchants are demanding that their trees be cut under approved methods, and bear the certifying tag.

This year, a great many families are buying small trees in pots, for table and window decorations. A living Christmas tree is attractive, and after its use as a holiday decoration is over, and spring comes along, the tree can be planted out of doors, to ornament the grounds about the home.

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The holly tree is one of the most beautiful trees in our woods, and one of the few broadleaf trees that are evergreen. The enormous use of holly, especially as a Christmas green, is resulting in its fast disappearance.

Holly grows very slowly, its seeds take two years to germinate. You can see that holly is at a disadvantage in keeping up with the inroads made upon it every year. No longer are holly bushes and trees conspicuous along the roadside.

THE HISTORY OF THE  
CITY OF BOSTON

From the first settlement of the  
English in 1630 to the present time  
the city has grown from a small  
village to a large metropolis.  
The population in 1630 was  
about 100, and in 1800 it was  
about 10,000. In 1850 it was  
about 30,000, and in 1880 it was  
about 60,000. The city has  
grown rapidly since 1850, and  
in 1900 it was about 100,000.

The city has a long history, and  
has been the seat of many  
important events. It was the  
first city in the New England  
colonies, and was the first to  
declare its independence from  
Great Britain in 1776. It was  
the first to establish a free  
school system, and the first to  
establish a public library.

The city has a rich cultural  
life, and has been the home  
of many famous men and women.  
It has been the birthplace of  
many important movements, and  
has played a leading role in  
the history of the United States.

The city has a beautiful harbor,  
and is one of the most important  
ports in the world. It has a  
large fleet of ships, and is the  
center of the shipping trade of  
the New England coast.

The city has a large number of  
museums, and is one of the most  
important centers of learning in  
the United States. It has a  
large number of colleges and  
universities, and is the home of  
many of the most famous  
educational institutions in the  
country.

The city has a large number of  
public buildings, and is one of  
the most beautiful cities in the  
United States. It has a large  
number of parks, and is one of  
the most pleasant places to live  
in the country.



Have you noticed that much of the holly on the market during the past few years is without berries? This is the result of the destructive cutting of the pistillate, or female trees, which are the only ones that produce berries. This leaves the male trees to furnish most of the stock for the Christmas market.

In most sections, holly has been cut without rhyme or reason. Trees and bushes have been despoiled beyond any possibility of recovering from the injury, and in numberless cases whole trees have been cut down and hauled to market. Shortly before Christmas, many a city motorist takes his trusty car and goes hunting for holly, in the adjacent countryside; if he's in a generous mood he gets enough holly for his family, and all his friends.

It doesn't occur to him that he is taking the holly without the knowledge or permission of the owner of the land; if he were accused of stealing, he would be highly indignant. But it is stealing. A part of the wild holly sold during the holidays is obtained in just this way. Trees have even been taken from the front of summer homes, despite the fact that the property was fenced in.

If we are to perpetuate this beautiful and valuable tree, we must not only save the supply that is left, but we must also grow more holly. Promiscuous cutting should be stopped. Landowners who have holly on their property should supervise every cutting, to make sure that, when bought are cut, the trees are left in condition to recover, and put on new growth. The planting of holly, and the use of cultivated holly should be encouraged. Holly, growing in a pretty flower pot or jardiniere will make an attractive decoration for the home, not only during the holiday season, but the whole year 'round. Later it may be planted out-of-doors, as is often done with potted Christmas trees.

Like the dogwood, the holly is more beautiful in its natural setting than anywhere else. And this beauty is not limited to one season. In the late spring, its small creamy-white flowers form lace-like patterns against the dark background of the leaves. But it is loveliest in the winter, when the berries are ripe. Then it holds forth in all its glory of green leaves and crimson berries. To come upon its warmth and color in the gray and white of the winter woods, is like meeting a kindly friend.

Well -- I see there will be no time for a menu today. Tomorrow, first thing, I shall broadcast a menu and two recipes, so come prepared, please.

Tuesday: "Roast Spareribs with Sausage Stuffing."

